

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1473

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, BE

SUBJECT: BELGIAN EC PRESIDENCY: AGENDA FOR POLITICAL
DIRECTORS' MEETING, SEPT 6-7, 1977

SUMMARY: THE BELGIAN PRESIDENCY HAS PROPOSED AN AGENDA
TO ITS PARTNERS WHICH INCLUDES ITEMS ON THE UNITED NATIONS,

CSCE, AFRICA, THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE MEDITERRANEAN (CYPRUS AND MALTA). A PRESIDENCY OFFICER INFORMED US THAT THE FIRST THREE WERE CONSIDERED THE MOST IMPORTANT. END SUMMARY.

1. UNITED NATIONS. THREE SUB TOPICS WILL BE DISCUSSED UNDER THIS HEADING: (A) FOREIGN MINISTER SIMONET'S UNGA ADDRESS, FOR WHICH EVERY EC EXPERTS' GROUP WILL PREPARE CONTRIBUTIONS; (B) ATTEMPTS TO IMPROVE THE "EARLY WARNING SYSTEM," I.E. THOSE PROCEDURES BY WHICH DELEGATIONS OF THE NINE AT THE UN INFORM THE PRESIDENCY OF POSSIBLE DIVERGENCES BETWEEN EC MEMBERS IN UPCOMING VOTES IN SUFFICIENT TIME TO PERMIT COORDINATION WITH A VIEW TO VOTING AS A BLOC; AND (C) PREPARATIONS FOR THE 1978 SPECIAL UNGA SESSION ON DISARMAMENT, ON WHICH THE EC HAS NOT YET MADE ANY PROGRESS.

2. CSCE. THERE WILL BE A GENERAL DEBATE ON THE PRESENT STATE OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS WITH A VIEW TO DETERMINING WHAT EFFECT THESE WILL HAVE ON THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE BEGINNING IN OCTOBER. THERE WILL FURTHER BE AN IN-DEPTH DISCUSSION OF WHAT POLICY TO ADOPT CONCERNING THE ROLE OF THE COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE AT THE CONFERENCE. THERE IS NO ISSUE CONCERNING SIMONET SPEAKING AS PRESIDENT OF THE NINE, BUT THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS WILL TRY TO DECIDE HOW FAR TO GO IN PRESSING FOR COMMISSION CONFIDENTIAL

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REPRESENTATION.

3. AFRICA. THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS WILL ADDRESS THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR EUROPEAN FIRMS WHICH HAVE BRANCHES OR SUBSIDIARIES OPERATING IN SOUTH AFRICA. AN EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO ARRIVE AT A CONSENSUS ON HOW TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE EUROPEAN FIRMS TO FORCE THEIR SOUTH AFRICAN BRANCHES/SUBSIDIARIES TO TREAT THEIR WORKERS ON AN EQUAL BASIS REGARDLESS OF COLOR, E.G. EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK. THE FRENCH HAVE RAISED QUESTIONS ON HOW THE EC COULD IMPOSE ITS VIEWS ON SOUTH AFRICAN REGISTERED FIRMS WHICH ARE LEGALLY BOUND TO OBEY SOUTH AFRICAN LAWS. THE DUTCH, DANES, IRISH AND GERMANS HAVE URGED THE EC TO STUDY OTHER ECONOMIC MEASURES WHICH THE EC MIGHT TAKE IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE SOUTH AFRICA TO DISMANTLE APARTHEID. THIS PROPOSAL AND POSSIBLE MEASURES WILL BE DISCUSSED AS A SEPARATE AFRICAN TOPIC.

4. MIDDLE EAST. FOUR PRINCIPLE SUB TOPICS WILL BE DISCUSSED UNDER THIS HEADING: (A) REPORTS ON THE THORN, ANDREOTTI AND VANCE TRIPS; (B) THE EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN CONFLICT; (C) THE ISRAELI LEGALIZATION OF JEWISH SETTLE-

MENTS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES (THE PRESIDENCY WANTS TO
ARRIVE AT AN AGREED EC POSITION SHOULD ISRAEL CONTINUE
TO CREATE NEW SETTLEMENTS); AND (D) AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS
ON THE MEANING OF ISRAEL GRANTING EQUAL RIGHTS TO PERSONS
LIVING IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES WITH THOSE LIVING IN
ISRAEL.

5. MEDITERRANEAN. TWO SUBTOPICS WILL BE DISCUSSED
INCLUDING CYPRUS AND MALTA. DISCUSSION OF CYPRUS WILL
FOCUS ON (A) THE MAKARIOS SUCCESSION AND INTERNAL
SITUATION (SEE BRUSSELS 10356 NOTAL); (B) THE TURKISH

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CYPRIOT GOVERNMENT'S PLANS TO OPEN THE VAROSHA SUBURB

OF FAMAGUSTA TO TOURISM; AND (C) CYPRUS-EC RELATIONS, CYPRUS-COUNCIL OF EUROPE RELATIONS, CYPRUS AS A POSSIBLE ISSUE AT BELGRADE AND AT THE UNGA. DISCUSSION ON MALTA WILL CENTER ON A LETTER FROM MINTOFF RECEIVED BY THE PRESIDENCY. MINTOFF SAID HE WAS NOT INTERESTED PER SE
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IN DIRECT ACCESS TO EC INSTITUTIONS, SUCH AS THE DEVELOPMENT FUND AND THE DEVELOPMENT BANK, BUT THAT HE DID WANT THE EC TO PROVIDE MALTA WITH AS MUCH FINANCIAL SUPPORT AS MALTA HAD PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED IN THE FORM OF RENT FOR BRITISH BASES.

6. A TOPIC NOT ON THE AGENDA OF THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS, BUT WHICH MAY BE ADDED AT THE LAST MOMENT, IS THE U.S. NOTIFICATION TO THE ILO OF ITS INTENT TO LEAVE THAT ORGANIZATION. THE PRESIDENCY HAS RECEIVED AN OPINION FROM ILO SEC GEN BLANCHARD THAT IT IS FEASIBLE TO PROLONG THE PERIOD OF THE U.S. NOTIFICATION OF ITS INTENT TO WITHDRAW FROM TWO TO THREE YEARS. THIS WILL BE STUDIED AND A DEMARCHE TO THE PRESIDENT MAY RESULT WHEN PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS VISITS WASHINGTON.

7. PRESIDENCY REQUESTS ANY USG COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS ON ABOVE AGENDA BY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2. CHAMBERS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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